

Dear Chairpeople of the FCC,

I am highly disgusted to hear the FCC is planning further deregulation -- leading to more consolidation and monopoly powers in the communications industries.

"Remember the Telecommunications Act of 1996? It led to a wave of mergers. There are now 1,700 fewer owners of commercial radio stations ? a one-third decline. Today, just a few players dominate. One conglomerate alone - Clear Channel - owns more than 1,200 stations and controls 11 percent of the market. That legislation was also supposed to lower the rates we pay for our cable service. Instead, costs have increased almost 30 percent. Why? Because the big giveaway of '96 did not increase competition - it increased monopoly. The nation's seven largest cable operators control more than 75 percent of the market."*

"Yes, it's true: the typical cable consumer today receives about 60 channels. But those so-called "choices" are determined by a handful of corporate giants ? companies like Viacom, AOL-Time Warner, Disney, and News Corp."*

These monopolistic powers are already biasing the information they present to the public -- a GRAVE DANGER TO OUR FREEDOMS OF THE PRESS and access to unbiased news and information. "Of the major broadcasters, only ABC reported the FCC's recent decision to review media ownership rules ? and that report was at 4:40 in the morning. While the big newspapers did somewhat better, only the LOS ANGELES TIMES mentioned that its corporate owner, the Tribune Company, was actively lobbying for deregulation."*

"Those broadcasters and newspapers are whom we rely upon to tell that story and allow the American people to have that public debate. And they don't want to have that debate. They want a deregulatory minded administration just to get out of their way, eliminate ownership limitations, let them join together. And the American people unfortunately may find out about this on the back end after its all happened!"*

I am sure you are getting all kinds of pressure and kick-backs favors/ -- whatever you want to call it - to side with the big corporations, but please resist the temptation and do what you can to prevent further deregulation by siding with the American public!

Sincerely,
Indira Palanki-Bucci
2144 Broad Street
Cranston, RI 02905

*PBS/Bill Moyers is the source for these statements